Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

On motion, the nomination of Standing Committees being in order, those of the preceding year were continued.

On motion, the reading of the Catalogue of Members was dispensed with.

Pending nominations Nos. 679, 689, and new nominations 690, 691 were read.

Nominations Nos. 678 to 688 were spoken to by Nominors and ballotted for; and on a scrutiny of the ballot boxes, by the presiding officer, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected members of the Society:

Prof. W. C. Kerr, State Geologist of N. Car., Raleigh, N. C.

Mr. La Motte Dupont de Nemours, Wilmington, Del.

Prof. William P. Trowbridge, of Yale College, New Haven, Conn.

Dr. William Elder, of Philadelphia.

Francis Bowyer Miller, Esq., of the Royal Branch Mint at Melbourne, Aus.

Mr. Guillaume Lambert, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Louvain, Belgium.

Mr. Persifor Frazer, Jr., Assistant Prof. Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Mr. George W. Hough, Director of the Dudley Observatory, Albany.

Mr. William A. Stokes, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Edwin J. Houston, Professor in the High School and Franklin Institute, Philadelphia.

And the Society was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, February 2d, 1872.

Present, fifteen members.

Vice-President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

New members:—Mr. Stokes, Dr. Elder and Prof. Persifor Frazer, Jr., were introduced to the presiding officer and took their seats.

Letters accepting membership were received from Prof.

Wm. C. Kerr, dated Raleigh, N. C., January 29th; Prof. Edwin J. Houston, dated 3603 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, January 30th; Prof. Persifor Frazer, Jr., dated 137 S. Fifth street, Philadelphia, January 28th; and Mr. Wm. A. Stokes, dated 2026 Delancey Place, Philadelphia, Jan. 25th, 1872.

A letter of envoi was received from the Fondation Teyler.

Letters enclosing the draft of a memorial to Congress, for an appropriation for observing the transit of Venus, were received from Rear-Admiral Sands, dated U. S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D. C., Jan. 18th, 1872, and Jan. 30th, 1872.

On motion of Dr. Ruschenberger, a committee, consisting of Dr. Ruschenberger, Prof. J. F. Frazer and Mr. Marsh, was appointed to consider the subject of preparing a memorial to Congress for an appropriation for observing the transit of Venus, in accordance with the recommendation of Rear-Admiral Sands.

A portrait of D'Alembert, by Rembrandt Peale, was presented to the Society by Mr. Joseph Harrison, of Philadelphia, who purchased it at the sale of the Peale Collection some years ago. On motion, the Secretaries were instructed to tender the thanks of the Society to the donor.

The Secretaries laid on the table for the examination of the members the 87th number of the Proceedings of the Society, just published.

Donations for the Library were received from the Belgian Academy, the Revue Politique; Nature; the Canadian Naturalist; Salem Institute; Old and New; Silliman's Journal; Journal of Pharmacy; Franklin Institute; Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; the Chief of U. S. Engineers; the Smithsonian Institute; the New York Anthropological Society, and Senator Sumner.

The Anthropological Institute of New York; the Voigtländsche Verein für Naturkunde, Reichenbach a-V.; the Zoolog-Mineral. Verein, Regensburg; and the Verein für Vaterländ: Naturkunde, Stuttgart, were, on motion, placed on the list of corresponding Societies, to receive the Proceedings.

The death of Mr. Edward Miller, a member of the Society, on the 1st instant, at West Philadelphia, in the 62d year of his age, was announced by Mr. Fraley, with appropriate remarks. On motion, Mr. Solomon W. Roberts was appointed to prepare an obituary notice of the deceased.

The Committee to which was referred the paper and map of Mr. Lyman, on the Punjaub Oil Region, reported in favor of its publication in the Transactions.

Mr. Lyman exhibited a large map of the region between Rawul Pindee and the Salt Range, published by the British Government, and described the zoological structure and mineralogy of the country.

Dr. G. B. Wood, referring to his previous communications of the use of potash salts in agriculture, made some additional remarks on that subject.

Professor Cope offered for publication in the Proceedings a paper on "The Families of Fishes of the Cretaceous Formation of Kansas."

Pending nominations Nos. 689, 690 and 691 were read, and the meeting was adjourned.

Influence of Fresh Wood-Ashes on the Growth of Wheat, Potatoes, &c.

By Dr. George B. Wood.

(*Read before the American Philosophical Society, February 2d*, 1872.)

In a communication made to the Society at their meeting of January 6th, 1871, in relation to the efficiency of fresh wood-ashes in the revival of prematurely failing fruit-trees, I took occasion to suggest that, upon the same principles, they might prove equally efficacious in preventing the failure or deficiency of the wheat crop, so common of late in the old settled parts of our country. The opinion was based on the large proportion of potassa found in the ashes of the wheat plant, when burned in the growing state; exceeding as it does twenty times that of common unleached ashes. Wheat, therefore, requires a very large relative proportion of the alkali for its growth, more than can be derived from an exhausted soil, even when aided by manure, which, though it contains a considerable quantity of the salts of potassa, cannot yield enough to the growing wheat to insure a large crop. But this was mere speculation, and the question could be decided only by experiment. Accordingly, as stated in my last communication, I selected an acre of ground, and dividing it into three parts, treated one with ashes alone, another with ashes